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Goddard Space Flight Center

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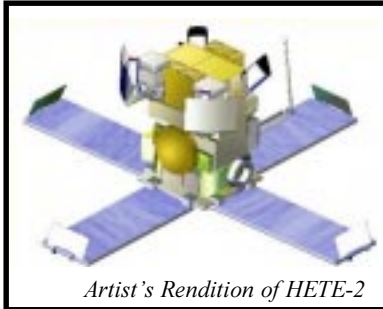
October 16, 2000

HETE-2 Spacecraft Successfully Launched

A new gamma ray burst mission, the High-Energy Transient Explorer (HETE-2), was successfully launched on Oct. 9 from the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands.

HETE-2 was deployed by an L-1011 aircraft and carried into orbit by a Hybrid Pegasus expendable launch vehicle. The spacecraft separated from the Pegasus rocket approximately 12 minutes after launch.

"Gamma ray bursts are stupendous explosions. They are the most energetic events since the Big Bang, yet one occurs about once a day somewhere in the sky," said Dr. George R. Ricker from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Mass., HETE-2 principal investigator. "The successful launch of HETE-2 means that for the first time we can locate with pinpoint accuracy hundreds of these bursts. Also, HETE-2's ability to relay the accurate location of each burst in real-time to space- and ground-based optical and radio observatories will surely revolutionize this exciting new area of high energy astrophysics."



Artist's Rendition of HETE-2

Gamma ray bursts are a mystery to scientists, and very little is known about their fundamental origin. HETE-2 will embark upon a gamma ray burst fact-finding mission during the four years it is slated to operate. In addition to detecting hundreds of bursts during its mission, it will provide detailed information on the location and light characteristics of many of these bursts.

Within seconds of a burst, HETE-2 will be able to calculate a precise location for that burst. On the ground, a dedicated network of 12 listen-only burst alert stations will relay the data to the MIT control center. From there, information will be transmitted to the Gamma Ray Burst Coordinate Distribution Network at the Goddard Space Flight Center, which can send the information to other observatories worldwide in 10-20 seconds. HETE-2 will allow astronomers to see a burst while it is still occurring and allow scientists to study its development at various wavelengths.

Information on HETE-2 can be found at: <http://space.mit.edu/HETE>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Worldwide Caution

The Department of State is extremely concerned about the possibility for violent actions against United States citizens and interests throughout the world. Several U.S. Embassies, including Damascus and Brussels, have recently been the target of violent anti-American demonstrations.

On October 12, 2000, several American citizens were killed, and many more were injured in an incident involving a U.S. Navy ship in port in Aden, Yemen in what may have been a terrorist attack. In addition, anti-American demonstrations continue to take place in countries throughout the world in response to tensions and violence in the Middle East.

U.S. citizens are urged to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

Americans should maintain a low profile, vary routes and times for all required travel, and treat mail from unfamiliar sources with suspicion. American citizens traveling abroad should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for up-to-date information on security conditions. U.S. Government personnel overseas have been advised to take the same precautions. Government facilities will continue to temporarily close or suspend public services as necessary to ensure the safety of its personnel.

American citizens in need of emergency assistance should telephone the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate before proceeding to that location.

Goddard Colleagues:

In response to increased tensions and hostile activities in the Middle East, which include the apparent terrorist bombing of the U.S.S. Cole, additional security measures have been implemented in accordance with guidance received from NASA Headquarters. Although our ThreatCon level will not be changed, the GSFC Security Office (GSO) has alerted its officers to be more vigilant in checking identification badges and vehicles, especially those making deliveries.

All employees should:

- conspicuously display their NASA/GSFC badge at all times while on Cente property.
- have their NASA/GSFC picture badge (as well as photo identification for employees who have temporary badges) ready to display to security officers at access gates.
- report any suspicious individuals, packages, or activity to their servicing Security Office.
- secure rooms and storage areas when not in use.
- consider additional security measures when planning special events or receiving visitors and notify the Security Office if assistance is needed.

While we hope that our increased security measures will be virtually transparent, employees may encounter brief delays for closer scrutiny of badges and vehicles. We ask for your cooperation and patience as we endeavor to provide the necessary level of protection for everyone. We anticipate the heightened security measures will be in place at least for the duration of Discovery's STS-92 flight.

A. V. Diaz

Shuttle Discovery Lifts Off on 100th Mission

The Space Shuttle program marked it's 100th with the launch of Discovery at 7:17 p.m. on Oct. 11.

STS-92 is a space station assembly flight that will bring the Z-1 Truss (mounted on a Spacelab pallet), Control Moment Gyros, Pressurized Mating Adapter-3 (PMA-3) and two DDCU (Heat pipes) to the International Space Station. While at the station, the crew will use the Shuttle's robot arm and conduct four space walks to attach a piece of exterior framework called the integrated truss structure and a third docking port to the station.

For about the STS-92 mission, go to: <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-92/mission-sts-92.html>

Octoberfest

October 21

Noon to 5 p.m.
At The Wallops Ball Field

German Food, Hot Dogs, Beer and Sodas

Children's Activities

Clowns, Face Painting, Games, Crafts
Hay Rides

Softball Game

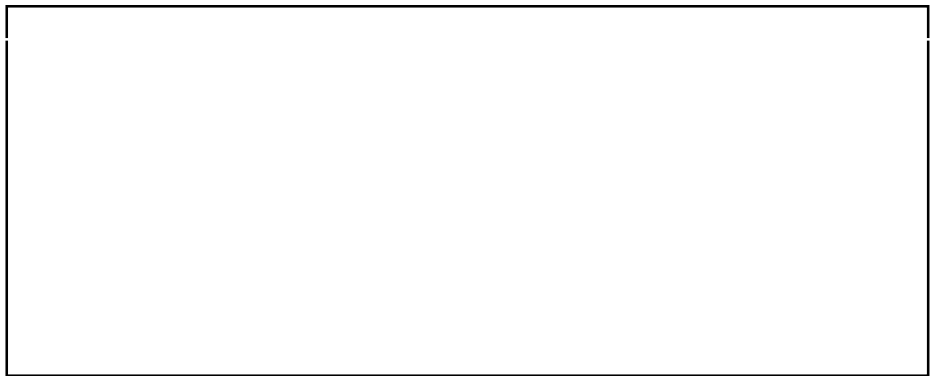
Horseshoes

Music By Tittle Mania

Adults - \$5.00

Children Under 16 - Free

Contact - Bev Hall, x1714; John Conquest, x1485; Jose Gonzalez, x1919; or Jan Jackson, x1883.



Annual International Luncheon Featured an Assortment of Dishes



Ben Robbins, Will Mast, Doug Vandemark and Sharon Wong (left to right) found plenty to fill their plates.

Photo by Lisa Johnson.

Life Skills Workshop

The Employee Assistance Program will host a 2-day (12 hour) workshop at Wallops on Life Skills to use at work and at home.

The workshop will be held Oct. 26 and 27 beginning at 8 a.m. in the Building E-2 Conference Room. For additional information call the EAP, x66-4600.

Monthly Tail Gate Sale

October 18
11:30 a.m.

At the Flag Court parking lot across from the Cafeteria.

Wallops Shorts.....

Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Terrier-Improved Orion sounding rocket was successfully launched from the White Sands Missile Range, N.M. on Oct. 13. The flight test was to demonstrate the ability of candidate ground (primary) and airborne radar and optical sensors to detect and track a simulated chemical, biological weapon cloud as it disperses and descends through the atmosphere. The principal investigator was Major Charles Kastenholz, U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory.

Fire Department Responses

Sept. 28 to Oct. 6
Aircraft Standbys — 64
Fire Alarms — 7
Ambulance Calls — 0

"Invest in Your Future -- Invest in the CFC"

**Combined Federal Campaign
Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, 2000**

American Red Cross Blood Drive

October 24, 2000
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Bldg. F-3

Call the Health Unit, x1266 for an appointment time.

From FEDweek Oct. 11 Issue

Beefed Up Security Supported

The House has passed a bill (HR-4827) making it a crime to enter federal buildings or other federal property under false pretenses. The measure is a reaction to a General Accounting Office report that found it relatively easy to enter federal property using false identification.

Meanwhile, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has approved legislation (S-870) to give greater authority to certain agency inspector general investigators, including authority to make arrests, issue warrants and carry guns.

Women of Wallops Day October 19, 2000

Morning Workshop

"How to Be Calm When the World Around You is in Chaos" -- Sandra Crowe
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Bldg. E-2 Conference Room

Luncheon and Speaker

"Tapestry of Life" -- Martha Hudson
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Bldg. E-2 Williamsburg Room

Tickets are \$4 per person and can be purchased from Pam Milbourne in the Exchange.

Afternoon Workshop

"Take Back Your Power" -- Dianne Sutton, M.A.
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Bldg. E-2 Conference Room

Self-Defense Tips -- Diana Whitehead
4 to 4:30 p.m.
Bldg. D-10 Gym

For more information visit the Women of Wallops website: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~FWP/news/wowday.html> or contact Lisa Johnson, x1412 or Pat Pruitt, x1245.

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Editor
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<http://www.wff.nasa.gov>